



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Co-Chair John Carver, Superintendent, Howard-Winneshiek Community School District
Co-Chair Robert von Wolfradt, Chief Information Officer, State of Iowa
Amy Kuhlers, Program Manager, Connect Iowa
Robert Denson, President, Des Moines Area Community College
Dave Duncan, President, Iowa Telecommunication Association
Philip Groner, Iowa Communication Network
Karl Hehr, Director of Technology Services, Ames Community Schools District
Galen Howsare, Chief Financial Officer, Iowa Association of School Boards
Karen Randall, Keystone Area Education Association
Michael Sadler, Assistant VP for Public Policy
Larry Siegel, Iowa School Finance and Information System Services
Jeff Weld, Executive Director, Governor's STEM Advisory Council
Josh Byrnes, State Representative, District 14
Steven Soddors, State Senator, District 36

September 19, 2013

The STEM Advisory Council Broadband Committee is soliciting input from stakeholders all across Iowa who can offer insights into the unique broadband challenges facing the state, as well as provide thoughts on possible solutions. This input will help enhance efforts in developing effective policy recommendations to expand broadband access, adoption and use for all Iowans.

To offer comments, please address the questions below. All responses are considered public information, so please do not include confidential information in your response.

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I. What barriers or other issues can you identify that may impede the increase of broadband access, adoption and use across the state?

1) The costs that providers will incur to build, upgrade, or maintain broadband networks at adequate speeds and bandwidth ; 2) The retail costs that end users will incur for such services.

II. If you had to choose one *primary* barrier, what would that be?

In less populated areas in the state, the costs that end-users incur could be substantial because there are fewer households and businesses per square mile to cover the fixed costs of the network.

III. What recommendations do you have to overcome these barriers?

The Connect Iowa map portrays Iowa with a 98.23 percent penetration of broadband services. However, these services may not be of adequate speed or bandwidth to support future needs. Step One would be to determine the necessary speeds and bandwidth that will allow Iowa to remain economically and technologically competitive not only nationally but more importantly, in a global economy. Step Two would be to assess the costs necessary to upgrade Iowa's broadband networks to



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the speeds and bandwidth determined in Step One. Step Three would be the development of short- and long-term plans to realize Step Two. The short and long-term plans would need to address the funding issues associated with the network upgrades or deployment.

IV. What are your expectations for future access needs?

The Board supports the development of short and long-term planning necessary to provide all Iowans access to at least one broadband platform (e.g., cable, fiber, wireless, or satellite) at speeds and bandwidth that will maintain Iowa's economic and technological competitiveness with other areas of the country.

V. Other comments?

The Board recommends that the committee and policy makers continue to evaluate the effects of the FCC's Transformation Order (11-161) on the developing broadband landscape as well as the implications of the upcoming spectrum auctions slated for 1Q2014. To a great extent, it appears that federal actions will impact Iowa's planning going forward.